

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application and claims 1-26 stand rejected.

Claims 27 and 28 are newly added. No new matter is involved.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11 and 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) in view of Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934).

The present invention is chamber lamp socket (3) for a refrigerator. This chamber lamp socket (3) includes socket main body (4), a support member (5) and a lamp holder (8) for receiving a chamber lamp (2). The support member (5) is formed of a flexible synthetic resin. A tip cylindrical portion (5A) extends upwards from the socket main body (4). The tip cylindrical portion (5A) includes on its inner surface a sawtoothed portion (19) having gentle slopes (17) and steep slopes (18). With such a structure the holding force on the chamber lamp (2) increases and the rotation of the chamber lamp (2) is prevented when exposed to the vibrations caused by opening and closing of the refrigerating chamber door (107) and the operation of the refrigerator.

Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) describes a lamp socket for a refrigerator which prevents the lamp socket from becoming an ignition source. This is accomplished by providing a collar part (1d) made of a flexible material which comes into contact with a glass bulb (2).

Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934) describes as shown in Figures 2A and 2B a lid (2) for a liquid container having ratchets for holding the lid to the container.

In this case, Applicant does not believe that motivation exists to combine Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) and Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934). Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) describes a lamp socket while Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934) is a lid for a liquid container. These references are considered to be non-analogous art and no motivation exists in either reference to combine the two references. The only possible reason to combine the two references is the use of impermissible hindsight. Therefore, the Applicants wish to traverse the Examiner's motivation to combine these references.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-9, 11 and 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) in view of Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934) is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 10, 12, 13 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) and Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934) as applied to claims 3, 9, 11, 7, 1, 2 and 14, and further in view of Hawes et al. (US 3,915,328 A).

Hawes et al. describes a frame like collar assembly being made of polyvinyl chloride. Again Hawes et al. is non-analogous art. No motivation exists in any of the references to combine the these references. Therefore, Applicants traverse the Examiner's motivation to combine these references.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 10, 12, 13 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) and Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934) and further in view of Hawes et al. (US 3,915,328 A) is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 27 and 28 have been added to this applicaiton.

Because the collar portion is formed of a polyvinyl chloride resin material, the collar portion deteriorates with a lapse of years. By such a deterioration, the collar portion sticks on the glass tube. Therefore, when the chamber lamp is turned by hand for changing it, it happens that the lamp cannot be turned.

New claims 27 and 28 may prevent such a problem. By providing with unevenness on an inner surface of the collar, sticking power of the collar to the glass can be reduced. Therefore, when the chamber lamp is changed every few years, the collar can be turned easily. Such purpose, structure and effect are not described in the cited prior art references.

Therefore, allowance of new claims 27 and 28 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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